



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,979	02/10/2006	Kadem Ai-Lamee	78104100N17926	4645
25005	7590	07/10/2008		
Intellectual Property Dept. Dewitt Ross & Stevens SC 2 East Mifflin Street Suite 600 Madison, WI 53703-2865			EXAMINER HELM, CARALYNNE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1615	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/10/2008	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/567,979

**Applicant(s)**

AI-LAMEE ET AL.

**Examiner**

CARALYNNE HELM

**Art Unit**

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/86)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Remarks*

The previous office action that recited a restriction requirement is hereby vacated in view of the newly presented restriction requirement below.

Although the previous restriction requirement has been vacated, the arguments presented by the applicant in response to the requirement that are in conflict with the claims and disclosure as filed require discussion. Instant claim 1 recites formula 1 that is composed of up to with three possible functional groups. Since both y and z can be zero, a homopolymer of vinyl acetal groups is included in the recitation. Further this claim also recites formula 2 that is composed of up to two possible functional groups. Here m can be zero, indicating that a homopolymer of vinyl pyrrolidone is included in the recitation. In fact, page 3 lines 2-4 of the specification specifically teaches the inclusion of a vinylpyrrolidone homopolymer as formula 2. Thus contrary to applicant's assertion, polyvinylpyrrolidone was claimed and particularly envisioned as a part of the composition. In addition, claim 1 does not *require* a combination of a binary copolymer and ternary copolymer. The composition requires any combination of formula 1 as a homopolymer, binary copolymer or ternary copolymer with formula 2 as a homopolymer or binary copolymer. Applicant's asserted requirement is embraced by the recitation, but the recitation is certainly not limited to a combination of a binary copolymer and ternary copolymer.

Claims 9-22 are not addressed in the restriction requirement that follows as they are improper multiple dependent claims (do not depend in the alternative to multiple claims and/or depend from other multiple dependent claims).

***Election/Restrictions***

***Election of Species***

Claims 1-8 in this application are directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for more than one species to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid. The species are as follows:

Species A: Claims 1-4 and 8, drawn to a coating composition with a bioactive where the second compound (formula 2) is poly(vinyl pyrrolidone-co-vinyl acetate) and the first compound is formula 1 defined such that a specific A, B, and C are identified.

Species B: Claims 1-2, 5-7, and 8 drawn to a coating composition with a bioactive where the first compound (formula 1) is poly(vinyl butyral-co-vinylalcohol-vinylacetate) and the second compound is formula 2 defined such that a specific D and E are identified.

The species listed do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: their common technical feature is not novel. The common technical feature of each group is a composition comprised of a bioactive, a polymer of a vinyl acetate and optionally a vinyl acetal and a vinyl alcohol, as well as a polymer of vinyl pyrrolidone and optionally vinyl acetate. Ding (U.S. Patent No. 7,294,329) teach a coating composition for medical devices with a bioactive along with a ternary copolymer of a vinyl acetate, a vinyl acetal and a vinyl alcohol (see claims 1-2 and 10 and column 2 lines 43-45, column 4 lines 36-38 –

Art Unit: 1615

compound in claims of reference where  $n=0$ ). Further, Ding also teaches the incorporation of a second polymer into the composition (see claim 10). Eder et al. (U.S. PGPub No. 2002/0087184) teach that poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) was a known polymer used in coatings for medical devices (see paragraph 36 line 6). Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) as the second polymer in the coating composition of Ding, thereby making obvious the common technical feature of the instant invention. Thus since, the technical feature of the invention was known in the art, this technical feature cannot be deemed as special.

Applicant must elect either species A or species B where the required additional definitions for substituent groups recited above are provided.

**Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species.**

The election of a species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected invention and species.

If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable upon the elected invention and species.

***Correspondence***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CARALYNNE HELM whose telephone number is (571)270-3506. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8-5 (EDT).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on 571-272-83738373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Caralynne Helm/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1615

/MP WOODWARD/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1615